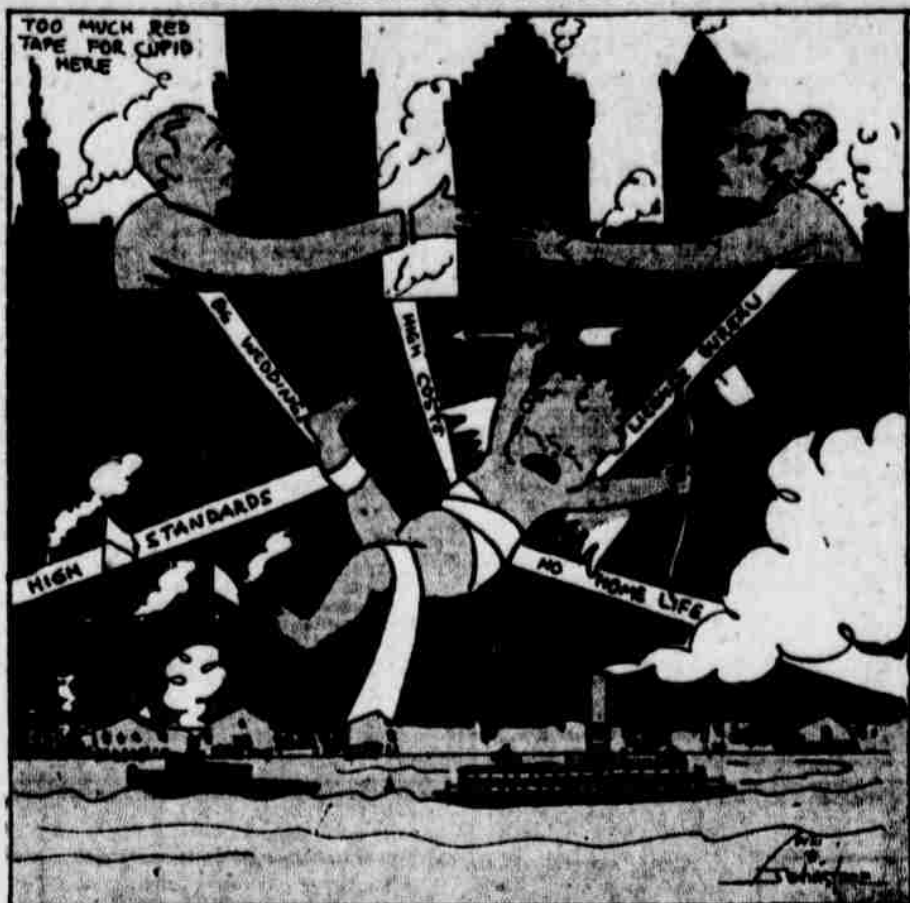


Make Marriage Easier and Cheaper; Cupid Tangled in City Hall's Red Tape



Walter T. Diack, Y. M. C. A. Secretary, Says Marriage License Bureau Should Keep Open Evenings and Doctors and Ministers Should Be Allowed to Issue Licenses So Would-Be Bridegroom Won't Have to Lose Day's Pay or More in Going Through Formalities.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

"New York makes it too hard for folks to get married. Marriage is growing altogether too difficult and expensive an operation in this city."

After ten years of careful observation that is the conclusion reached by Walter T. Diack, Secretary of the West Side Young Men's Christian Association. As Mr. Diack sees it, when Father Knickerbocker isn't tying up Cupid with many yards and intricate knots of red tape, he is plunging the poor little chap into a maze of frenzied finance. The course of true love never did run smooth, to be sure, but modern New York seems determined to turn it into an obstacle race.

There are some of us who feel that marriage ought to be made more difficult, that if the front door into the House of Matrimony did not swing open so easily at the touch of the curious, or the thoughtless, or the young, the rear exit, by way of the Divorce Court, would be used less frequently.

But Mr. Diack believes in booming the marriage market. He has listened to the confessions of scores of involuntary bachelors. Some of them couldn't get acquainted with any nice girls in this big, busy town. Some met the girls and then struggled to keep pace with the high cost of metropolitan courtship. Finally, many complained of losing money and time they could ill afford in the effort to comply with the city's red tape marriage regulations.

WOULD KEEP MARRIAGE LICENSE BUREAU OPEN EVENINGS.

Therefore Mr. Diack proposes the following plan:

"Let us have the Marriage License Bureau kept open at least two or three nights during the week until 11 o'clock. At present it opens after many young men and girls have gone to work and closes before their working day is over. To procure a marriage certificate they must lose half a day's wages or more. Why should the Municipal Government penalize them for the innocent and laudable desire to get married?"

"Couldn't they go to the bureau during the noon hour?" I suggested to Mr. Diack, who sat facing me across a smooth, golden oak table in the administration office of the big Y. M. C. A. branch on Fifty-seventh Street, just off Eighth Avenue. The secretary is a slender, alert, young-looking man, with brown, bright eyes, a rather dry smile and a manner of restrained earnestness.

"When would they get their lunch?" he countered quietly. And before I could hint that possibly lunch might be a willing sacrifice to such an important errand, he brought forward a more potent objection.

"Even if they gave their whole noon hour to it, there are many working men and women who could not go from their place of labor to City Hall, procure and fill out a license blank and return to their job in a period of sixty minutes. They may not be waited on as soon as they reach the bureau. If they are foreign-born they may find difficulty in writing answers to all the questions. There are likely to be delays in transportation during the noon rush. The private savings bank keeps open after working hours. Why not the public marriage bureau?"

WHY NOT HAVE DOCTORS GIVE THE CERTIFICATES?

"Men engaged in manual labor don't want to appear at City Hall in their working clothes, particularly in company with their best girls. Yet, as I said, a man loses half a day's wages, at least, if he goes home and changes, goes to his girl's home and reaches the bureau in morning or afternoon. The girl, too, if she works in shop or factory, is docked for every minute of absence. Just before marriage most young persons need all their pennies."

"The city departments are supposed to be run for the convenience of citizens rather than of



A number of times we have taken groups of lonely young men to dances and parties given by the Y. W. C. A., and the experiment has been most successful.

"Then there are the expenses of courtship, after a man has found a girl to court. It costs him \$5 or \$6 to take her to the theatre in New York; in other cities he can do it for \$1 or \$1.50. He must dress better here and he must spend more money on dinners and presents. Because the standard of pleasure is so high, it's almost impossible for him to save ahead for marriage, and, moreover, he says to himself, 'How can I marry when I can barely support one person?'"

"Don't you think that a girl's extravagant wedding plans often frighten a young man?" I suggested. "Undoubtedly that is true," he admitted. "He realizes, for example, that he cannot hope to dress her up to the mark set by her trousseau. And then there is the wrong idea held by so many in this city that young married folks ought to begin where their fathers left off, that they ought to live on the same scale as that to which their parents have attained after twenty or thirty years of effort."

"It's even hard for many a New York girl to find a place where she can see her young man. If she is living away from home she frequently does not have the use of a parlor, and in many overcrowded homes there is little chance for privacy. That's one reason why the young man has to spend so much money, why he seeks the too expensive restaurant where he can obtain at least the semblance of intimacy. The whole situation is wrong," sighed Mr. Diack.

And as I passed through a block of parlors, furnished room houses on the way to my car, there returned to me one of T. L. Mason's "Songs of Gotham":

"Don't love in Gotham;
There is no place to go;
You can't hide in the subway
Or on the roofs, you know.
There's not one spot to practise
Without they're seeing you.
Don't love in Gotham;
They will jug you if you do."

Oddities in the War News

All stray cats in Lebanon and Damascus have been commandeered by the Turks to protect army stores from rats.

All French soldiers are being inoculated with lockjaw serum.

It is estimated Germany's aerial fleet has cost her \$22,000,000, and has killed sixty persons, making the cost per person about half a million dollars.

While Russia is going to treat captured airmen who shell unfortified towns as pirates, England announces that such men act under orders from military authorities, and it would be impossible for a court to fix responsibility, hence they will not be "pirates" in England.

Russia has notified the United States that foreign relief expeditions for the benefit of German and Austrian prisoners will not be permitted, but distributions may be made through the Russian military authorities.

Germany has a new war biplane which can remain in the air ten hours, carries a ton of explosives and four passengers, and has 225-horsepower engines.

Baby Sayre, grandson of President Wilson, has through his aunt, Miss Blanche Nevin, contributed \$10 to the Belgian relief fund in Lancaster, Pa. Miss Nevin's home.

Oiga Kraalnikoff, a nineteen-year-old girl, fought in nineteen battles in Poland before she was wounded in the foot and her sex was discovered. A fourth degree St. George's Cross has been awarded her in the Moscow Hospital.

Believing Salonika was still in Turkey, the Canadian authorities held up as war contraband seven carloads of flour shipped from Kenora, Ont., to that place, which has been in Greece since the last Balkan war.

Semi-official announcement is made that Switzerland will fight if her food is stopped, neutrality or no neutrality.

A blind Frenchman named Chopard, of Chaffout, who sent his seven sons to the war last August, has been notified all have been killed in action.

'SEPTEMBER MORN' PHOTOS OF AFFINITY SHOCK THE JUDGE

Takes One Look and Promptly Orders Them Sealed and Laid Away.

BROKER'S WIFE WINS

George W. Thompson Is Ordered to Pay His Wife \$100 a Month.

Justice Davis of the Supreme Court and a number of women waiting in his court room to become divorcees listened to-day to Ben A. Mathews, an Assistant United States District Attorney and former secretary to United States District Judge Hunt, tell how he became a detective for one day that Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt Thompson, daughter of Judge Hunt, might get a divorce from George W. Thompson, Wall Street broker, Harvard graduate and clubman.

Mrs. Thompson was awarded the divorce, the custody of her boy and girl and \$100 a month after posed photographs of Miss Sibyl Barnard in the role of "September Morn" were introduced in evidence. Judge Davis lifted his eyebrows as he glanced at the nude pictures and then ordered them forever sealed. Mr. Mathews had nothing to do with getting the photographs. They were found, it was explained, on Miss Barnard's dressing, by whom it was not disclosed.

Early in 1914, after Mr. and Mrs. Thompson had disagreed and there seemed no likelihood of their patching up their differences, Judge Hunt received a letter telling about a mysterious Mrs. Charlotte Sawyer, who lived at No. 155 West Forty-fifth Street, and explained that if a person called at her apartment and gave the name of "Mr. Jack" he would be given access to the apartment.

Mr. Mathews and a Mr. Burns called at the apartment, but the maid told them that Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer were out to dinner. Charles H. Mirshman of No. 703 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, said he followed Mr. Thompson from the Union Club one night in January of last year to Mrs. Sawyer's apartment.

Rene McKensie, a negro maid, who was employed at the apartment at No. 244 West Fifty-second Street, where Miss Barnard lived, said she saw the "September Morn" pictures on the dressing table.

Justice Davis held that the charges concerning Mr. Thompson's visits to the Sawyer apartment had proved true and that the testimony concerning the "September Morn" pictures was true. Thompson did not defend himself against the accusations of unfaithfulness, but took the stand to testify as to his efforts to pay alimony. "I realize," said Justice Davis, "that business on Wall Street is bad and I will order this man to pay only \$100 a month, subject to a change if his business improves."

"All I will say is that I wish very much the rumor was true."

SPERRY IN FAST FLIGHT ABOVE RIVER AND BAY

In Curtiss Flying Boat, Equipped With Stabilizer, Aviator Skims Through Sky in Another Test.

Lawrence Sperry, who is showing Government officials how easy it is to keep right side up while flying, left the Brooklyn Navy Yard before noon today, in his Curtiss flying boat, equipped with his own gyroscopic stabilizer. On other trips he has carried Lieut. Knutson, U. S. N., as an observer, but he has had a little engine trouble since last Saturday, so to-day he flew alone.

"I'm just going to take a few short hops," Sperry said, as he climbed into his perch. "Just down around Governor's Island, the Statue of Liberty and back."

Two minutes after he uttered the word "back," Sperry's flying boat was a rectangular blur against the gray southern sky, and soon he vanished in the pearly mist over the Upper Bay of New York Harbor. A few minutes later his boat was visible again, a tiny blur over Red Hook.

Returning, the aeroplane passed over the Brooklyn Bridge, and then, in a long, sweeping dive downward, almost at an angle of forty-five degrees, lit on the East River near Cob Dock.

TWO ADMIT TAKING AUTO.

"Stole It, You — Fool!" Their Reply to Dealer's Query.

Two young men went into an automobile store at Fifty-sixth Street and Broadway last evening and offered to sell a runabout machine.

"Where did you get it?" asked the dealer.

"Stole it, you — fool. Where'd you think we got it?" one of the pair replied. The dealer quietly telephoned to Police Headquarters, and Detectives Wagner and Meyers arrested them. It was found the car was stolen from Henry F. J. Morristown, N. J. The prisoners said they were Frank Salvi and George Dolan of Morristown. Salvi admitted he was sent to the Reformatory in August, 1909, for robbing his mother of \$1,500 and shooting her in the arm. They were taken to the Tombs to await extradition to New Jersey.

Best for Colds—Foster John's Medicine, bottle throat and lungs—Advt.

MISS BILLIE BURKE RAPIDLY IMPROVES FROM OPERATION.



MISS BILLIE BURKE

Billie Burke, the actress, in private life Mrs. F. Ziegfeld Jr., is resting comfortably to-day after having undergone an operation performed late yesterday afternoon by Dr. Joseph H. Bissell at the Astor Sanatorium, No. 205 West Seventieth Street. Miss Burke rallied from its effects very nicely, and is now reported as being entirely out of danger.

Mr. Ziegfeld brought the actress from Boston in a private car yesterday afternoon and hurried her to the hospital. The operation was performed at 6 o'clock. Miss Burke, starting in "Jerry" under the management of Charles Frohman, had been seen well for several months. Her illness caused her to miss a performance in Washington recently.

At the Hollis Street Theatre, Boston Monday night, her condition grew worse, and she could not finish the play. Tuesday afternoon her husband received a wire from Boston summoning him to her bedside, and he took a 9 o'clock train. Upon his arrival there he decided that an operation was imperative and he lost no time in starting for New York with his wife.

"My daughter's condition is very satisfactory," said Mrs. Blanche B. Burke, mother of the actress, at the Burke country home, near Yonkers. "The experts to return to Boston next Monday and resume her work."

BOMB FOLLOWS THREATS.

Tailor Refuses Money and Explosion Is Penalty.

The entrance to the home of Nicholas Derosa, a tailor, who lives at No. 400 Seventeenth Avenue, Astoria, and has a shop at No. 182, is a wreck to-day, from an explosion which tore off the door, stripped plaster from the walls and broke windows. The explosion occurred last night, after Derosa had called a third time to hear threatening letters demanding that he put \$100 behind an elevated railroad pillar at Seventeenth and Wilson Avenue.

Similar letters were sent to him last summer and two of the tailors then employed by Alexander Norman and Umberto Grandi, are now in State Reformatory for sending them.

To-Young-Old, Bride Found Dead.

ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 4.—Mrs. J. Gust, seventy years old, was found dead in bed by her husband early today. Mrs. Gust was married only ten days ago having remained a spinster up to that time.

WIFE NO. 1 LEARNS OF WIFE NO. 2 WHEN SHE CALLS UP HUSBY

Then No. 1 Calls on No. 2 After Phone Reveals His Alleged Double Life.

Mrs. Adèle Olga Marie Beckerle began suit in the Supreme Court to-day for a separation from Frederick L. Beckerle, a broker. According to affidavits filed with her complaint, here's why:

Beckerle was frequently absent from his home at No. 325 Spruce Street, Richmond Hill, for days at a time. His wife wanted to know the reason. "Business," he said.

A friend of hers whispered in her ear one day last June that if she would telephone to the brownstone apartment house at No. 148 West Twelfth Street, Manhattan, she might learn what her husband's engrossing "business" was. She telephoned. A maid told her Mr. Beckerle was out, but asked her if she wished to speak to "Mrs. Beckerle."

Mrs. Beckerle of Spruce Street said she didn't care to talk to Mrs. Beckerle of Twelfth Street over the telephone. She promised to call that afternoon. She did.

"Good evening," said the Spruce Street Mrs. Beckerle, as the Twelfth Street Mrs. Beckerle opened the door. "Are you Mrs. Frederick Beckerle?"

"I am," said the woman. "Won't you come in?"

"I'll talk here, thank you. How long have you been Mrs. Beckerle?"

"Eight years, if it interests you."

"It does," replied the caller. "I happen to have been Mrs. Frederick Beckerle for thirteen years."

At this point Mrs. Beckerle came up the steps. He took his wife (of Spruce Street) gently by the arm and led her to the street.

Beckerle, answering his wife's charges, tells a different story. "There has been a gradual drifting apart," his affidavit says, "due to refusal of the plaintiff, after the birth of one child, to have any more."

He says he merely boarded with the Mrs. Beckerle of Twelfth Street. "I foolishly permitted her to use my name," he says, "because she told me it was necessary to get an apartment."

His wife says Beckerle has offices with the National Importing and Trading Company, No. 40 Wall Street.

See Cause Book of Proceedings.

METUCHEN, N. J., Feb. 4.—James A. McCabe of No. 514 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, a brakeman on the "Millstone Freight" of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was killed last night by the derailment of the train, due to ice, at Metuchen. He was found under the wreckage of the caboose at the base of a thirty-foot embankment.

To-Young-Old, Bride Found Dead.

ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 4.—Mrs. J. Gust, seventy years old, was found dead in bed by her husband early today. Mrs. Gust was married only ten days ago having remained a spinster up to that time.

GERMAN REFUGEES HERE FROM CHINA, GUESTS ON LINER

Women, Maids and Youngsters Who Were in Besieged Town, On Way Home.

GORN AS GUNS BOOMED.

Little Ones Are in Arms of Their Mothers on the Vaterland.

For the second time in six silent months the Hamburg-American pier in Hoboken was bubbling with excitement to-day and, throaty cheers given under the red, white and black flag on the stern of the giant Vaterland steamed across the river to mock the cheers of St. George on the staffs of the Guard and White Star fleet.

Twenty-six fraus and kinder from Kiao-chau, who had seen the flag go down in glory before the Japanese Rising Sun, came as guests to take temporary abode aboard the Hamburg-American steamship President Lincoln pending their sailing for Germany.

As a jolly, rosy-cheeked party it was, however, dark the memories left behind in the fallen fortress city of China. Thirty-five of them were wives and maidens; twenty-five were refugees and three were in arms—these born when the sound of the beleaguering guns made a bed of Kiao-chau.

After the fall of the city these women and children had to see all their men folks of gun-carrying age rounded up by the police little soldiers of Nippon and herded on transports headed for prison in Japan. Then the conquerors started the non-combatants on their long trip for the Vaterland. This was the second contingent to arrive in New York; others are on the way.

There was one man in the party—Dr. Karl Faber of Shanghai, who was chosen by the Japanese to pilot the liner half way around the world. He said that when their ship stopped at the Japanese port of Kobe and Yoko-kawa none of the refugees was allowed ashore and no communication with him who were prisoners near their ports was permitted. To Dr. Faber all the others spoke in the highest terms of the courtesy of their Japanese captors, who had done everything possible for their comfort and non-combatants alike after the fall of the German city.

Miss Elsie Welke, a Red Cross nurse who worked in the forts and hospitals during the entire siege, told a dramatic story of the fall of Kiao-chau.

"All the Kaiser's brave soldiers knew that defense was hopeless," she said. "Their only effort was to make the Japanese and Indian troops pay as dearly as possible for the city. The German lines were small—30 dead and 20 wounded. The Japanese admitted they lost 13,000 in killed and wounded. The city was surrendered without a struggle. It would mean waste of lives."

When the allied troops—Japanese and British Indian—marched into the city, the first shooting would be general. The Japanese were held in hand by their officers, but the Indians simply did not care to restrain them. For a day conditions were very bad. The Japanese finally imposed order and their treatment of all Germans was kindly and courteous.

"A German man, woman or child remains in Kiao-chau now. All have either been sent to Japan as prisoners of war, like us, on the way back to the Vaterland."

One contingent of the refugees will start for Europe on the Italian liner Europa Saturday, the rest following later.

"White Feather" Opening Postponed.

The opening performance of William A. Brady's production, "The White Feather," scheduled for to-night at the Comedy Theatre, has been postponed to to-morrow night. Tickets purchased for this evening will be honored to-morrow evening.

Bread Extra With Meats in Berlin.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 4.—The allied associations of the restaurant and hotel keepers of Berlin have decided to charge a forward make a charge for all food served at meals. The Berlin stockyards report a further increase in the price of hogs. The highest quotation is 166 marks (\$26) per 110 pounds.

ACKER, MERRALL & CONDIT

Thin-skinned Florida

Oranges

21c dozen

"Quality at lowest cost"

No C. O. D. deliveries made

AT ALL OUR STORES

Atrol CREATES STRENGTH

FEEBLE PEOPLE

Aged Brooklyn Woman Finds Health in Vinol

Brooklyn, N. Y.—"I was in a run-down, weakened condition caused by old age and the loss of my daughter. I had no ambition, strength or appetite, and it was hard for me to attend to my household duties. I tried different medicines without benefit. My son bought a bottle of Vinol and asked me to try it, and in a week I noticed an improvement. I continued its use, my appetite returned and I regained my strength so I am now able to do all my household duties although I am advanced in years."—Mrs. JOHN WERNIGER, 238 Hawthorne St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is the tissue building, curative elements of the cod's liver, aided by the blood making, strengthening properties of tonic iron contained in Vinol, that makes it so successful in building up strength for old people, delicate children and for all run-down conditions.

At Riker & Hegeman stores, and at all drug stores that display this sign.

ALSO AT LEADING DRUG STORES EVERYWHERE